

ACTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM \_\_\_\_\_ O-1 \_\_\_\_\_

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

**MEETING DATE:** July 12, 2011

**AGENDA ITEM:** Work session on amendments to the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance dealing with Large Wind Energy Systems and Utility Wind Energy Systems

**SUBMITTED BY:** Philip Thompson  
Deputy Director of Planning

**APPROVED BY:** B. Clayton Goodman, III  
County Administrator *BCG*

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:**

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

In June, 2009, the Planning Commission and Community Development staff identified several areas of the zoning ordinance to review and update. Wind energy was one of the areas identified to research and to develop regulations for which could be incorporated into the zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission has reviewed wind energy issues at numerous work sessions over the past twenty-four (24) months. On January 4, 2011, the Planning Commission finalized draft zoning ordinance amendments dealing with large wind energy systems and utility wind energy systems.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on draft zoning ordinance amendments for large and utility wind energy systems on March 1, 2011. Approximately sixty (60) citizens spoke at the public hearing. The Planning Commission postponed action on the draft ordinance amendments to review the public comments made during the public hearing. The Planning Commission held three (3) work sessions (March 15, 2011, April 19, 2011, and May 17, 2011) and visited a utility-scale wind farm in Greenbrier, WV, as part of its deliberations on the draft ordinance amendments after the public hearing. On May 17, 2011, the Planning Commission recommended approval by a vote of five to zero (5-0) of the draft zoning ordinance amendments. On June 14, 2011, staff reviewed with the Board the proposed zoning ordinance amendments dealing with large wind energy systems and utility wind energy systems.